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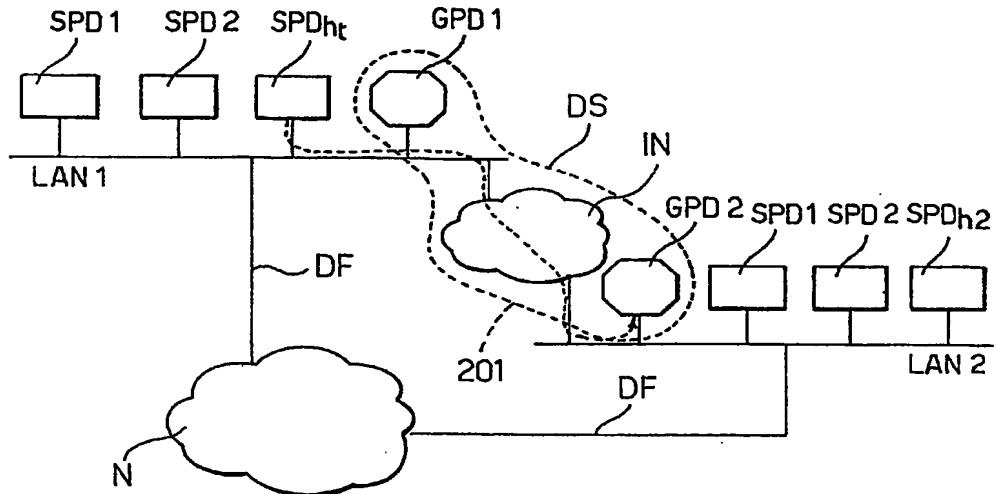
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(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR FAULT PROTECTION IN COMMUNICATION NETWORKS, RELATED NETWORK AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT



(57) Abstract: A method of providing fault protection of special purpose devices (SPDs) included in at least one communication network (LAN1, LAN2, LAN3) and performing respective functions (F1, F2, F3, F4), includes the steps of:- providing a set of general purpose devices (GPDs) adapted to be configured to perform said respective functions (F1, F2, F3, F4), and - in the presence of a faulty condition in any of said respective functions (F1, F2, F3, F4) of the special purpose devices (SPDs), applying at least one of the general purpose devices (GPDs) in performing the respective function exposed to said faulty condition. Preferably, the general purpose devices (GPDs) are configured for resource sharing; resources needed to perform a respective function exposed to a faulty condition can thus be transferred to a general purpose device (GPD1) in the set from another general purpose device (GPD2) in the same set. The set of general purpose devices (GPDs) is preferably arranged as a distributed system (DS).

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